

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 20 and 21 are pending in the application.

Claims 3, 11 and 21 are amended to address the claim objections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 11 and 20 are amended to address the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 20 and 21 are rejected as anticipated by KANOU et al. U.S. 2001/0010571. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The earliest date to which KANOU et al. is entitled as §102(e) prior art is KANOU et al.'s January 22, 2001 U.S. filing date. Applicants claim priority to Japanese Application No. 2000-343714 filed November 10, 2000 which antedates KANOU et al.'s earliest §102(e) date. Applicants submit herewith a verified English translation of the Japanese priority document to perfect the claim to priority and remove KANOU et al. as a prior art reference.


Since each of the claims were rejected using KANOU et al., and since KANOU et al. is believed removed as a prior art reference, the claims should be allowable.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R.\$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell".

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified English translation of Japanese Application No.
2000-343714